

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUENOS 00532 212217Z
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 TRSE-00 /086 W
-----212221Z 003200 /73

P R 212037Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8681
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0532

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, SREF, PORG, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE REQUEST FOR US SUPPORT IN UN COMMISSION ON
HUMAN RIGHTS

1. SUMMARY: GOA HAS REQUESTED US SUPPORT IN FEBRUARY 7 MEETING
IN GENEVA OF UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH WILL CONSIDER
RESOLUTION CRITICAL OF ARGENTINE TREATMENT OF REFUGEES. GOA
CLAIMS IT HAS TREATED REFUGEES IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING
AGREEMENTS AND THAT LOCAL OFFICE OF UNHCR WILL SO REPORT TO
COMMISSION. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS DEPARTMENT GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERA-
TION OF ACCEDING TO GOA REQUEST WITH APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS.
END SUMMARY

2. ON JANUARY 19 ACTING UNDERSECRETARY FOR OFFICE CALLED
IN DCM TO PRESENT AIDE MEMOIRE WHICH REQUESTS USG SUPPORT IN
FEBRUARY 7 GENEVA MEETING OF UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION .
THIS MEETING WILL CONSIDER A DRAFT RESOLUTION PREPARED IN AUGUST
1976 BY THE 29TH MEETING OF THE SUB-COMMISSION ON DISCRIMINATION
AND PERSECUTION OF MINORITIES. DRAFT RESOLUTION WAS APPARENTLY
HIGHLY CRITICAL OF ARGENTINA AND FORNOFF PROVIDED A COPY OF
ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH REJECTING IT BEFORE SUB-COMMISSION.
AIDE MEMOIRE REJECTS THIS RESOLUTION, STATES THAT IT IS OF INTEREST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BUENOS 00532 212217Z

TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT THAT THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN
RIGHTS NOT CONTINUE TO DEBATE THE DRAFT, AND RESTATES THE FIRM
OBJECTIVE OF GOA TO ASSURE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AS WELL AS
THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA. FINALLY,
IT STATES "...CONSEQUENTLY THIS MINISTRY WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE
SUPPORT OF YOUR GOVERNMENT WITH THE OBJECTIVE THAT THIS SUBJECT
NOT BE DEBATED BY THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THUS AVOID

THE ADOPTION OF A RESOLUTION WHICH WOULD NOT BE POSITIVE AND THAT, ON THE CONTRARY, WOULD AFFECT THE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WHICH OUGHT TO EXIST BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THIS MINISTRY WOULD HOPE TO KNOW THE ANSWER TO ITS REQUEST STATED ABOVE BEFORE THE NEXT MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS."

3. ACTING SUBSECRETARY SANTOIANNA WAS ASSISTED BY DIRECTOR OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS ESPECHE AND NEW HEAD OF HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING GROUP, JUAN CARLOS ARLTIA, WHO CARRIED BURDEN OF PRESENTATION. THEY STATED THAT REFUGEES IN ARGENTINA WERE CURRENTLY BEING TREATED WITH STRICT ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND THAT LOCAL OFFICE OF UNHCR WOULD SO TESTIFY TO COMMISSION. THEY ALSO OBSERVED THAT A LONG-TERM MISSION OF INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS WAS CURRENTLY IN THE COUNTRY AND HAD COMPLETE FREEDOM OF ACCESS TO ALL DETENTION CENTERS. THEY ASSERTED THAT THE DRAFT RESOLUTION CONTAINS FALSE AND OBJECTIONABLE ALLEGATIONS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN ARGENTINA AND FAILED TO RECOGNIZE THE ENORMOUS EFFORTS MADE BY GOA TO DEAL WITH MASSIVE PROBLEM OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES. THEY HOPED THAT COMMISSION ACTION AT FEBRUARY 7 MEETING COULD BE LIMITED TO A STATEMENT TAKING NOTE OF ARGENTINE EFFORTS TO SOLVE REFUGEE PROBLEM AND EXPRESS SATISFACTION ON PROGRESS MADE.

4. OUR SOUNDINGS INDICATE UK, CANADIAN AND CUBAN EMBASSIES HAVE BEEN PRESENTED WITH IDENTICAL REQUESTS AND ALSO RECEIVED A HARD SELL BY FORNOFF. MULLER OF UNHCR FIRMLY ASSERTS HE DOES NOT KNOW POSITION TO BE TAKEN BY UNHCR IN ITS REPORT TO COMMISSION. HIS ASSESSMENT IS THAT SITUATION HAS IMPROVED OVER PAST SIX
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BUENOS 00532 212217Z

MONTHS. THAT VIEW COINCIDES WITH EMBASSY IMPRESSION.

5. OUR CANADIAN COLLEAGUES REPORT THAT US IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION THIS YEAR AND THAT CANADA REPRESENTING THE GROUP OF COUNTRIES WHICH INCLUDES THE US. FORNOFF OFFICIALS STATED THEIR FIRM BELIEF THAT US IS A CURRENT MEMBER, AND APPEAL MADE ON THAT BASIS. ASSUMING CANADIANS ARE CORRECT, GOA WOULD ASSUME THAT USG COULD BE SUFFICIENTLY PERSUASIVE TO INFLUENCE CANADIAN VOTE.

6. FORNOFF INITIATIVE IS UNUSUAL AND COULD PRESENT AN ATTRACTIVE OPPORTUNITY. PRESENTATION BY SENIOR FORNOFF OFFICIALS WAS REMARKABLE FOR DEPTH OF EMOTION ABOUT ARGENTINA GETTING FAIR TREATMENT IN INTERNATIONAL FORUM AND FOR THE INTENSE CONCERN OVER ARGENTINA'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE. PREVIOUSLY WE HAVE FELT THAT GOA HAS NOT REALLY BEEN DEEPLY CONCERNED OVER ITS IMAGE ABROAD BEYOND THAT HZGD BY FOREIGN LENDERS, BUT GOA IS GIVING ALL THE SIGNALS THAT FEBRUARY 7 MEETING IS IMPORTANT TO IT. WE THINK MANY GOA OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE BEEN DEALING

WITH REFUGEES IN GOOD FAITH AND ARE PROUD OF IT.

7. THIS SITUATION COULD HAVE THE ELEMENTS OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE IMPROVED OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA. PROVIDED REPORT OF UNHCR IS AT LEAST MODESTLY ENCOURAGING, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF US GROUP COULD BE PERSUADED TO GO ALONG, VOTE TO KILL DRAFT RESOLUTION MIGHT BE COUPLED TO COMMISSION ACTION TO REVIEW MORE CLOSELY GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION, POSSIBLY INCLUDING VISIT TO ARGENTINA. IF GOA WANTS TO KILL DRAFT RESOLUTION ENOUGH, IT MIGHT AGREE TO COOPERATE WITH A VISIT.

8. EMBASSY HOPES THE DEPARTMENT WILL BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SOME INDICATION OF US POSITION BY FEBRUARY 4, SO THAT FORNOFF CAN BE INFORMED.

HILL

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, REFUGEE RELIEF, HUMAN RIGHTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BUENOS00532
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770023-0525
Format: TEL
From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770131/aaaabaux.tel
Line Count: 130
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f71261d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3542405
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ARGENTINE REQUEST FOR US SUPPORT IN UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
TAGS: SHUM, SREF, PORG, AR, UNHCR
To: STATE GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f71261d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009